

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 28, 2003. Claims 1 to 6, 10 to 14, 16 to 22, 25 to 28, 30 to 34, 37 to 38, 40 to 42, 45 and 47 to 53 are in the application, with Claims 7 to 9, 15, 23, 24, 29, 35, 36, 29, 43, 44 and 46 having been canceled, Claims 48 to 53 having been added, and Claims 1, 16 to 18, 30 to 33, 40, 41 and 47 having been amended. Claims 1, 16, 18, 30, 32, 40, 41 and 47 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 15 to 17, 29 to 31, 39, 40, 46 and 47 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. The subject matter of Claims 15, 29, 39 and 46, respectively, has been incorporated into Claims 1, 18, 32 and 41, respectively. In addition, Claims 16, 30, 40 and 47 have been rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, all of the now pending claims are believed to be allowable.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3 to 7, 10 to 13, 32, 34, 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,724,378 (Miki), and Claims 18 to 28 and 41 to 45 were rejected under § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,070,086 (Dobrica). In addition, Claims 2, 8, 9, 14, 33, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Miki in view of Dobrica. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Applicant submits that the rejections are obviated by the incorporation of allowable subject matter into the independent claims as stated above, and/or cancellation of the rejected claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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